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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/599,675

06/22/2000

Mark Herrmann

10984-287001

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10/05/2006

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EXAMINER

JACOBS, LASHONDA T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/599,675

Applicant(s)

HERRMANN ET AL.

Examiner

LaShonda T. Jacobs

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 25-32 and 39-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 33-38, 42, 51, 57-59, 61 and 63-65 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 25-32 39-41, 43-50, 52-56, 60 and 62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office action is in response to Applicants' RCE filed on May 3, 2006. Claims 33-38, 42, 51, 57-59, 61 and 63-65 have been cancelled. Claims 25, 39, 41, 48-50, 52-55, 60 and 62 have been amended. Claims 25-32, 39-41, 43-50, 52-56, 60 and 62 are presented for further examination.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 27 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 27 recites the limitation "the browser" in line 2. In order to clarify the claim language, should "the browser" read ---the web browser---? Appropriate correction is required.
2. Claim 43 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 43 is missing a period at the end. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims **25-32, 39-41, 43-50, 52-56, 60 and 62** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldberg et al (hereinafter, "Goldberg" U.S. Pat. No. 5,823,879) in view of Sgaraglino (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0229893).

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As per claim **25**, Goldberg discloses a system comprising:

- a server communicatively coupled to client device and configured to communicate content to the client device for display to a user, (col. 14, lines 37-65; Goldberg discloses an Internet interface communicating with World Wide Web server in which the World Wide Web server access the database system for the determining the registration of a blackjack player. Once the user is registered, the World Wide Web server is able to communicate Internet responses to the blackjack player);
- wherein the content includes information relating to an interactivity and information relating to an advertisement (col. 16, lines 14-27 and col. 21, lines 363-63; Goldberg discloses a blackjack player receiving information related to a blackjack game or tournament and the blackjack player is able to receive advertisement information while playing the game).

However, Goldberg does not explicitly disclose:

- one or more software modules executing in an operating environment provided by the server and configured (a) to receive input from the client device, said input including, in a single transmission, information relating to the user's participation in the interactive activity and a request from the user to receiving additional information relating to the advertisement, and (b) after receiving said input, provide to the user additional information relating to the advertisement and to communicate content to the client relating to the interactive activity.

Sgaraglino discloses a system and method for providing information to a user in response to a user request comprising:

- one or more software modules executing in an operating environment provided by the server and configured (a) to receive input from the client device (abstract and paragraph 0028), said input including, in a single transmission, information relating to the user's participation in the interactive activity (paragraph 0045) and a request from the user to receiving additional information relating to the advertisement (paragraphs 0029 and 0033, Sgaraglino discloses a user requesting follow-up material for advertisement and information relating to the current activity) (b) after receiving said input, provide to the user additional information relating to the advertisement and to communicate content to the client relating to the interactive activity (paragraphs 0029, 0033 and 0045).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Goldberg by implementing in a single transmission sending follow-up material relating to advertisements and information relating to the current activity in order to allow a user to request for advertising material without interrupting his or her current activity and it allows the user to express interest in the advertisements and receive the information without being directed to a new location thus reducing the time and effort cost of the user selecting the advertisement (Sgaraglino, paragraph 0115).

As per claim **26**, Goldberg further discloses:

- a registration database to store user information (col. 5, lines 16-25 and col. 22, lines 16-25).

As per claim **27**, Goldberg discloses:

- a web browser executing in an operating environment provided by the client device receive a request from the user to receive additional information relating to

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advertisement, (col. 4, lines 48-62, col. 25, lines 59-67 and col. 28, lines 10-12;

Goldberg allows a user to participate in an interactive game and request additional information relating to an advertisement).

As per claim **28**, Goldberg discloses:

- wherein the media comprises a web-based computer game (abstract, col. 3, lines 57-65 and col. 5, lines 13-16).

As per claim **29**, Goldberg discloses the invention substantially as claimed discussed above.

However, Goldberg does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the content includes a check box and a server configured to communicate the advertising information to the user when the received input indicates a user has marked the check box.

Sgaraglino discloses a system and method for providing information to a user in response to a user request comprising:

- wherein the content includes a check box (push button) and a server configured to communicate the advertising information to the user when the received input indicates a user has marked the check box (paragraphs 0040-0041 and 0067; Sgaraglino discloses a user pushing a first button to display follow-up material regarding the advertisements and pushing a another results in the follow-up material being provided to the user via e-mail. Therefore, Sgaraglino discloses wherein the content includes a check box and a server configured to communicate the advertising information to the user when the received input indicates a user has marked the check box. Also, according to Applicant

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page 5, lines 6-8 of specification a user can submitting information by means of buttons, drop down boxes, etc).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Goldberg by incorporating a push button to request follow-up material relating to advertisements in order to allow a user to express interest in the advertisements and receive the information without being directed to a new location thus reducing the time and effort cost of the user selecting the advertisement (Sgaraglino, paragraph 0115).

As per claim **30**, Goldberg discloses:

- wherein the server is configured to store registration information for the user within the registration database prior to communicating the content to the client device (col. 5, lines 16-25 and col. 22, lines 16-25).

As per claim **31**, Goldberg discloses:

- wherein the server is configured to retrieve registration information from the registration database when sending the advertising information to the user (col. 21, lines 60-67 and col. 22, lines 1-25)

As per claim **32**, Goldberg discloses the invention substantially as claimed discussed above.

However, Goldberg does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein communicating the advertising information to the user includes sending an electronic mail message to the user.

Sgaraglino discloses a system and method for providing information to a user in response to a user request comprising:

- wherein communicating the advertising information to the user includes sending an electronic mail message to the user (paragraphs 0029 and 0033).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Goldberg by sending an electronic mail message with follow-up material relating to advertisements in order to communicate the follow-up material to the user without interrupting his or her current activity thereby allowing the user to express interest in the advertisements and receive the information without being directed to a new location thus reducing the time and effort cost of the user selecting the advertisement (Sgaraglino, paragraph 0115).

As claims 39, 48 and 62, Goldberg discloses a method, software product stored on a computer readable medium and system comprising:

- displaying a user interface on display permitting a user to participate in an interactive activity (abstract, col. 3, lines 57-67 and col. 4, line 1-8; Goldberg discloses a user playing a game (interactive activity));
- during the display of the user interface, displaying advertising information on the same display without interfering with the user's ability to participate in the interactive activity (col. 4, lines 48-62, col. 25, lines 59-67 and col. 28, lines 10-12; Goldberg allows a user to participate in an interactive game and request additional information relating to an advertisement);
- during the display of the user interface, receiving from the user a first signal indicating an interest in receiving additional information related to the advertisement information (col. 4, lines 48-62, col. 25, lines 59-67 and col. 28, lines 10-12; Goldberg allows a user

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to participate in an interactive game and request additional information relating to an advertisement); and

- causing said additional information related to the advertising information to be provided to the user in response to the first signal, without interfering with the user's ability to participate in the interactive activity (col. 4, lines 48-62, col. 25, lines 59-67 and col. 28, lines 10-12; Goldberg allows a user to participate in an interactive game and request additional information relating to an advertisement).

However, Goldberg does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein causing the additional information to be provided to the user comprises transmitting a second signal indicating the user's interest in receiving the additional information, the second signal being transmitted in response to the user's interaction.

Sgaraglino discloses a system and method for providing information to a user in response to a user request comprising:

- wherein causing the additional information to be provided to the user comprises transmitting a second signal indicating the user's interest in receiving the additional information, the second signal being transmitted in response to the user's interaction (paragraphs 0040-0041 and 0067; Sgaraglino discloses a user pushing a first button to display follow-up material regarding the advertisements and pushing a another results in the follow-up material being provided to the user via e-mail. Therefore, Sgaraglino discloses wherein the content includes a check box and a server configured to communicate the advertising information to the user when the received input indicates a user has marked the check box. Also, according to Applicant page 5, lines 6-8 of

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specification a user can submitting information by means of buttons, drop down boxes, etc).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Goldberg by incorporating a push button to request follow-up material relating to advertisements in order to allow a user to express interest in the advertisements and receive the information without being directed to a new location thus reducing the time and effort cost of the user selecting the advertisement (Sgaraglino, paragraph 0115).

As per claim 60, Goldberg discloses a method comprising:

- displaying information about an interactive activity to a user on a display associated with a client computer (abstract, col. 3, lines 57-67 and col. 4, line 1-8; Goldberg discloses a user playing a game (interactive activity)); and
- receiving at the client computer a request for advertising information and information related to the user's participation in the interactive activity (col. 16, lines 14-27 and col. 21, lines 363-63; Goldberg discloses a blackjack player receiving information related to a blackjack game or tournament and the blackjack player is able to receive advertisement information while playing the game).

However, Goldberg does not explicitly disclose:

- simultaneously transmitting to a server the user's request for advertising information and the information related to the user's participation in the interactive activity, wherein transmitting is performed in response to the user's interaction with the interactive activity.

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Sgaraglino discloses a system and method for providing information to a user in response to a user request comprising:

- simultaneously transmitting to a server the user's request for advertising information and the information related to the user's participation in the interactive activity, wherein transmitting is performed in response to the user's interaction with the interactive activity (paragraphs 0029, 0033 and 0045, Sgaraglino discloses a user requesting follow-up material for advertisement and information relating to the current activity.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Goldberg by implementing in a single transmission sending follow-up material relating to advertisements and information relating to the current activity in order to allow a user to request for advertising material without interrupting his or her current activity and it allows the user to express interest in the advertisements and receive the information without being directed to a new location thus reducing the time and effort cost of the user selecting the advertisement (Sgaraglino, paragraph 0115).

As per claims **40** and **49**, Goldberg discloses:

- wherein the interactive activity is a game, and wherein the advertising information is displayed during the game, the first signal is received from the user during the game, and said additional information is provided to the user without interrupting the game (col. 4, lines 48-62, col. 25, lines 59-67 and col. 28, lines 10-12; Goldberg allows a user to participate in an interactive game and request additional information relating to an advertisement).

As per claims **41** and **50**, Goldberg discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Goldberg does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the user interface is provided by a client computer connected over a network to a server computer, and wherein causing said additional information to be provided to the user comprises transmitting from the client to the server a second signal indicating the user's interest in receiving the additional information.

Sgaraglino discloses a system and method for providing information to a user in response to a user request comprising:

- wherein the user interface is provided by a client computer connected over a network to a server computer, and wherein causing said additional information to be provided to the user comprises transmitting from the client to the server a second signal indicating the user's interest in receiving the additional information (paragraphs 0040-0041 and 0067; Sgaraglino discloses a user pushing a first button to display follow-up material regarding the advertisements and pushing a another results in the follow-up material being provided to the user via e-mail. Therefore, Sgaraglino discloses wherein the content includes a check box and a server configured to communicate the advertising information to the user when the received input indicates a user has marked the check box. Also, according to Applicant page 5, lines 6-8 of specification a user can submitting information by means of buttons, drop drown boxes, etc).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Goldberg by incorporating a push button to request follow-up

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material relating to advertisements in order to allow a user to express interest in the advertisements and receive the information without being directed to a new location thus reducing the time and effort cost of the user selecting the advertisement (Sgaraglino, paragraph 0115).

As per claims **43** and **52**, Goldberg discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

However, Goldberg does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein causing said additional information to be provided to the user includes causing an electronic mail message to be sent to the user.

Sgaraglino discloses a system and method for providing information to a user in response to a user request comprising:

- wherein causing said additional information to be provided to the user includes causing an electronic mail message to be sent to the user (paragraphs 0029 and 0033).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Goldberg by sending an electronic mail message with follow-up material relating to advertisements in order to communicate the follow-up material to the user without interrupting his or her current activity thereby allowing the user to express interest in the advertisements and receive the information without being directed to a new location thus reducing the time and effort cost of the user selecting the advertisement (Sgaraglino, paragraph 0115).

As per claims **44** and **53**, Goldberg discloses the invention substantially as claims discussed above.

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However, Goldberg does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the first signal is generated in response to the user checking a check box in the user interface.

Sgaraglino discloses a system and method for providing information to a user in response to a user request comprising:

- wherein the first signal is generated in response to the user checking a check box in the user interface (paragraphs 0040-0041 and 0067; Sgaraglino discloses a user pushing a first button to display follow-up material regarding the advertisements and pushing a another results in the follow-up material being provided to the user via e-mail.

Therefore, Sgaraglino discloses wherein the content includes a check box and a server configured to communicate the advertising information to the user when the received input indicates a user has marked the check box. Also, according to Applicant page 5, lines 6-8 of specification a user can submitting information by means of buttons, drop down boxes, etc).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Goldberg by incorporating a push button to request follow-up material relating to advertisements in order to allow a user to express interest in the advertisements and receive the information without being directed to a new location thus reducing the time and effort cost of the user selecting the advertisement (Sgaraglino, paragraph 0115).

As per claims 45 and 54, Goldberg further discloses:

- including registering the user prior to displaying the user interface (col. 5, lines 16-25

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and col. 22, lines 16-25).

As per claims **46** and **55**, Goldberg discloses:

- wherein causing said additional information related to the advertising information to be provided to the user in response to the first signal, without interrupting the user's ability to participate in the interactive activity, includes causing registration information for the user to be retrieved (col. 4, lines 48-62, col. 22, lines 16-27, col. 25, lines 59-67 and col. 28, lines 10-12; Goldberg allows a user to participate in an interactive game and request additional information relating to an advertisement).

As per claims **47** and **56**, Goldberg discloses:

- wherein causing said additional information related to the advertising information to be provided to the user in response to the first signal, without interrupting the user's ability to participate in the interactive activity (col. 4, lines 48-62, col. 25, lines 59-67 and col. 28, lines 10-12; Goldberg allows a user to participate in an interactive game and request additional information relating to an advertisement)

However, Goldberg does not explicitly disclose:

- capturing an email address of the user.

Sgaraglino discloses a system and method for providing information to a user in response to a user request comprising:

- capturing an email address of the user (paragraphs 0029 and 0033).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Goldberg by capturing an email address of the user to send an electronic mail message with follow-up material relating to advertisements in order to

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communicate the follow-up material to the user without interrupting his or her current activity thereby allowing the user to express interest in the advertisements and receive the information without being directed to a new location thus reducing the time and effort cost of the user selecting the advertisement (Sgaraglino, paragraph 0115).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims **25-32, 39-41, 43-50, 52-56, 60 and 62** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 571-272-4004. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M.-5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 571-272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ltj
September 29, 2006

LaShonda T Jacobs
Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "LaShonda Jacobs", written in a cursive style.